



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 105th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 143

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9, 1997

No. 140

Senate

The Senate met at 12 noon and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Blessed God, whose love never lets us go, whose mercy never ends, whose strength is always available, whose guidance shows us the way, whose spirit provides us supernatural power, whose presence is our courage, whose joy invades our gloom, whose peace calms our pressured hearts, whose light illuminates our paths, whose goodness provides the wondrous gifts of loved ones and family and friends, whose will has brought us to the awesome tasks of today, and whose calling lifts us above self-centeredness to others-centered servanthood. We dedicate all that we have and are to serve You today with unreserved faithfulness and unfailing loyalty.

You are with us today watching over all that happens to us. You go before us to guide each step of the way. You are beside us as our companion and friend, and You are behind us to gently prod us when we lag behind with caution or reluctance. Through our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The able majority leader is recognized.

UNANIMOUS-CONSENT AGREEMENT

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the routine requests through the morning hour be granted, and that the Senate immediately proceed to 1 hour of debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. DEWINE). Without objection, it is so ordered.

SCHEDULE

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, following 1 hour of debate, a vote will occur on the motion to invoke cloture with respect to the campaign finance reform bill. If cloture is not invoked, a cloture vote will then occur on the Lott amendment dealing with paycheck protection to S. 25. Therefore, Members can anticipate two back-to-back rollcall votes at approximately 1 p.m. I will notify Members as to the rest of the day. We are working now with the Democratic leader to see if we can get some understanding as to how we will proceed throughout the remainder of the day and, of course, how we will conclude the week's schedule.

It is hoped that the Senate will be able to vote on the VA-HUD appropriations conference report. I believe that is pretty well agreed to. We are also hoping we will be able to get the papers and have a vote on the Transportation appropriations conference report, if a recorded vote is required. And we hope to have some discussion today on the ISTEA authorization bill. We have requests from Senators for a block of time around 4 o'clock. But we are trying now to get an understanding of how we will proceed through the remainder of the day. Once that is worked out, we will notify all the Members. Of course, we could have some action on the Executive Calendar, in addition, before we go out tonight.

I yield the floor, Mr. President.

Mr. ROBERTS addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

BIPARTISAN CAMPAIGN REFORM ACT OF 1997—CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, I am making today one of those "I did not intend to make a speech, but here I am making a speech" speeches. I think most would agree that opponents of so-called campaign reform—a term, by the way, which should top the

oxymoron list of the 1990's—the opponents of this ill-advised attack on free speech have just about worn everybody out, even in Washington where people actually talk about such topics over dinner.

Some months ago, thanks to the distinguished Senator from Kentucky, I spoke on this issue and made what I thought was a pretty fair defense of free political discourse when the distinguished Senator from South Carolina proposed withdrawing first amendment protection from that same political discourse. Senator HOLLINGS, by the way, was up front. He was candid in his approach, as opposed to the current proposals of so-called reform.

Having been through at least three campaign reform efforts in the House of Representatives as a member of the then Administration Committee and goodness knows how many campaign task forces, and having paid attention to the current debate, I have been hard pressed to figure out what can be said that has not been said. However, it appears as if there is a sure bet in regard to this topic. It is that those who insist that they propose reform, regardless of the consequences, and wave their reform banners from self-consecrated, high moral ground, they never seem to suffer from arm fatigue. When it comes to campaign reform, the high road of humility is not bothered by heavy traffic in this town.

Despite the fact there is no clear consensus or a majority in the Senate regarding alleged campaign reform, there is no mercy from the proponents of the effort to further federalize the American electoral system, and we will apparently debate and vote, debate and vote and say the same things over and over and over and over again. I would surmise this is going to get a little tiresome, if not painful. But apparently the failure of past reforms does not deter or change the minds of current reformers.

Well, when you know all the answers, you haven't asked all the questions.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



Printed on recycled paper.

S10719